

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air a blatantly anti-Kerry documentary days before the election, without affording an opposing view in a similar format, is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. There is certainly value in information produced at "News Central" far away, but it is equally, if not more, important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them, and why the fairness doctrine should be reinstated. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.